

OHIO'S CLOSE LEGISLATURE.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A NARROW BUT

COUNT IN WOOD COUNTY.

eight counties very close, there have been no material changes except in Wood County, which will be claimed by both parties until the count-

pass on the action of the Supervisors. There has been no unusual proceedings before the returning boards of any of the counties except that of Wood, although both parties have their representatives and attorneys in the county seats wherever the vote was close.

Chairman McNelly of the Democratic State Committee has not changed his claims of a Democratic majority on joint ballot and will not do so until the local returns are all in and show the final results to differ from those he has at hand. He and others of the Democratic State headquarters went to Cincinnati to-night to confer with Mr. McLean and other party leaders regarding the contests that are to be made in the close counties.

Chairman Nash insists to-night that the Legislature stands 75 Republicans to 70 Democrats, and that the majority on joint ballot for Sena-

to-night suffered with the situation in Wood County. What he feared was that the official count might wipe out the small Republican plurality in that county. Since the face of the official tally sheets shows a plurality of 31 for the Republican Representative, Judge Nash is ready to have an, court pass on the case. He says the law provides that the members of the board of election cannot go behind the returns and the Supreme Court has held that they have no ministerial powers whatever, cannot hear evidence or use their discretion in throwing out any votes. That is left to the courts and to each branch of the Legislature in passing on the credentials of its members. In Wood County to-day Norris, the Republican candidate for

Representative, filed a protest against the board's counting the vote of Freedom Township, because the ballots should be tallied in blocks of five. This precinct gave Norris 151 and Mearns 149 Democratic votes. If the vote of the township had been thrown out it would have increased the plurality of Norris by 112, but it was counted. The Republicans insist that Norris will be declared elected in Wood County.

THE COUNT IN WOOD COUNTY.

Information was received at the State headquarters of both parties this afternoon that the Republicans claimed the election of their Representatives in Wood County by 25 and the Democrats claimed their Representative had a plural

ity of 14. When the Board of Elections took its noon recess at Bowling Green the two Democratic members refused to sign the official canvass of the vote of Wood County unless the vote of one precinct in Centre Township was thrown

out. The vote of this precinct makes a difference of 42 votes on the Wood County Representative. If it is counted, the Republican Representative will have a plurality of 28, and if it is thrown out the Democratic Representative will have a plurality of 14. The county sea-

The precinct in dispute includes that por-

its of Bowling Green, but for the convenience of voters the polls were located in Bowling

Green, just across the precinct boundary. The voting place is in the proper township, but not within the precinct, and it has been in the same place five years without the legality of the location ever being questioned before. As it is believed the deadlock of two to two will con-

tinue in the Board of Elections, Congressman Burton, of Cleveland, and other attorneys for the Republicans have prepared their mandamus case and will go before the Circuit Court for

Elections to sign the tally sheets as they have been made out on the face of the returns. The Republican counsel hold that no county boards of election have any power to go behind the returns and that the face of the returns gives the returns a conclusiveness of 28. In

the event of the court not granting the order it seems probable that the Republican members from Wood County would be sworn in, as the Republicans have a majority of six in the House.

The official returns from Delaware County give the Republican Representative a plurality of 30, instead of 29, as claimed last night.

public State Committee in 1896 and 1895, says that there is nothing whatever in the talk about certain Republican members of the Legislature combining with the Democrats to elect Governor Bushnell or any other man Senator in place of Senator Hanna, who was formerly Governor of the Republic. Any state Convention for both the short and the full term for Senator, Mr. Kurtz says, no Republican member could afford to bolt the caucus nomination, and he does not believe that any Republican would do so. "And even if they would go into such a combination," As Chairman of the Republican caucus, Mr. Kurtz was defeated for re-election as chairman by Senator Hanna, and admits that such an unfriendly combination would be a serious blow. He believed to be the last that will be heard of the combination against Mr. Hanna as the Republican Senatorial nominee. At Republican State headquarters the reports have never received any credence.

NARROW MARGIN FOR MR. HANNA.

It requires 73 votes, a majority of all the 145 members, to elect a Governor. Joint ballot with only 110 votes for Republicans in the Legislature, the death of a Republican member of the Legislature, and a vacancy from any cause would

leave a bare majority, and if Wood County should elect a Democratic Representative there would, no doubt, be startling developments at once in at least two other counties. The pro-

There are ten counties in the State that give a plurality of less than 100 each on their respective legislative candidates, and of these close counties both parties, Democrats and Republicans, claim the majority. The Republican claim the following pluralities in three counties that have been most hotly contested: Delaware, 29; Noble, 85; Wood, 28. This is a total of 139 plurality votes for the Republican party. The Democrats changed the vote in the three counties by changing the Ohio Legislature to 73 Democrats and 72 Republicans and perhaps have changed the political complexion of the United States Senate. It is what is at stake as well as the close shave that causes the managers of the party to put out with every possible effort that can be made.

There were over one million votes cast in Ohio last year, and it was estimated that there were 900,000 votes cast last Tuesday, of which the deciding seventy votes is an infinitesimal percent. In Hocking and Vinton Counties the Democrats elect their Representative by a plurality.

of 75, and by about the same plurality in Van Wert County, while in Summit County the Democrats elect two Representatives on pluralities that are said to be as close as those of Wood and Delaware counties. The Republicans claim that a change of less than 500 votes would give them four more Representatives in the counties of Summit, Van Wert, Hocking and Vinton.

There is no pluralism on plurality on the State ticket has approached 20,000, no interest is taken in those returns.

LATE STEAMSHIP ARRIVAL.

The American Line steamer Paris was sighted off Pelee Island at 11:50 o'clock last night.